



Summer 2010

The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am

Foreman's Forum ... Loving One Another

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:7-10)

Among the good traits of the people of First Church is that people love one another. I have been in congregations where few people would send cards in time of illness or important events in members lives. But here at First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park it happens more than I have experienced elsewhere. People respond in many ways of showing love, including bringing food to those in need and welcoming new people.

Glen and Stacey Alourdass shared this sentiment of being received into the congregation in an email to me which I share with their permission.

Dear Pastor Willie:

Glen and I want to thank you for everything. You and everyone in the congregation are so wonderful. Because all of you, with your support, patience and love, really helped in our decision to become members. Also, as you know, when Glen and I first started coming to your church, I was only there to support Glen. And wow, now look, you baptized me yesterday. What a difference. My life has changed in the past 1 1/2 yrs because of all of you. There are so many people to list, so forgive me for not addressing every single person. I just wanted to let you know that Glen and I are so grateful and blessed with you and everyone in the congregation.

Thank you for accepting us in your church family.

God Bless.

Glen and Stacey Alourdass

I can't add much to these wonderful words. The Alourdass' words remind us of the positive impact that love can have on other people. Love is from God and loving one another starts with accepting one another. And I pray:

O Lord, help us to accept one another. Help us to be patient and treat each other as a sister or brother. Amen.

Pastor Willie



Pastor

Dr. Willie Foreman

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Music Director

Dr. Pamela Blackstone

Interim Organist/Pianist

Paul Cady

Interim Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Roe

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Dr. Mary Ann Swenson

District

Superintendent

Rev. Cathleen Coots



July and August Calendar

July Birthdays

- 3 Patricia Rowe
- 11 Roger Johnson
- 12 Gerald Rowe
- 13 Barbara Lasala
- 17 John McKinney
- 18 Bob Meier
- 19 Shirley Thomson
- 22 Robert Bailey
Theodora Howell
- 23 John Yagiela
- 25 John Barlow
- 27 Elmo Maiden
- 30 Devon Cates

Anniversaries

- 7 Louis & Sharon
Mountford
- 20 Joe & Sandra Dedinas
- 24 Mike & Shanelle
LaGrasta
- 26 Darold & Margaret Cates
Robert & Flo Lamb



- 4 Dolores Butler *in memory of Bill*
- 11 Open
- 18 Sabra Pittenger *in memory of husband, Don*
- 25 Open

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 am
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Senior Exercise Class, Gym, 9:00 am
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
Girl Scouts, Lounge, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 am
Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- Saturday Peace Evangelical Church events
Tai Chi, Gym, 8:30 am
English Fellowship, Room 10, 9:30 am
Prayer Meeting, Lounge, 9:30 am

Other Activities... July

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's Restaurant, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Tuesday 13 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am
Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Tuesday 27 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am
Education Ministry, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 28 Urdu-FUMC meeting, Library, 7:00pm

Other Activities... August

- Wednesday 4 Wonderful Wednesday picnic dinner, 6:00 pm
- Thursday 5 Preschool Summer Session concludes
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's Restaurant, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon, just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Tuesday, 10 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am
Administration Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 11 Wonderful Wednesday picnic dinner, 6:00 pm
Outreach Ministry, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 15 *Courier* deadline
- Tuesday 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 18 Wonderful Wednesday picnic dinner, 6:00 pm
- Tuesday 24 Bridge, Lounge, 10:00 am
Education Ministry, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 25 Wonderful Wednesday picnic dinner, 6:00 pm

Looking Ahead

- Saturday, Sept. 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am

UMW News



Reading Program Banner

Anna Bennett, our Program Resource person, reports our Reading Program, with 8.67% of our UMW members participating, placed third out of the eight programs in the Cal-Pac Conference. Santa Ana District was first with 9.63%. Congratulations, girls.

UMW Conference

"Faith Hope & Love in Action"

This annual celebration will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Glendale on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Mark the date on your calendar and check the October *Courier* for more information.

General Meeting

Thursday morning, September 17, will be our first meeting after our summer break. Be sure to plan to attend. Invite a friend or a woman from our church who may not have been invited.

Circle Meetings for the Fall

Bookends

Thursday, September 9, 9:30 am
Home of Midge Herder

Faith Hope & Love

Wednesday, September 15, 7:00pm
Home of Beverly Ewing

Sarah Circle

Thursday, September 9, 9:30 am
Breakfast at Coco's

Adopt-A-Child-Abuse Caseworker Program

In August our church will take part in an annual Back-to-School Shopping Spree. For each \$100.00 raised one underprivileged child will be able to participate in the program, which includes the shopping spree, breakfast and a backpack.

If you would like to be a part of this project, any amount you can give would be appreciated. Make checks payable to "D.C.F.S." Please be sure to note in the memo space: "Back To School Shopping Spree." The check should be given to Shirley Thomson, coordinator for the ACAC activities at our church.

Bridge is Back!

Come join us on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month for a friendly bridge game. All levels are welcome. Cost is \$3.00 per session and reservations are required. Please phone Doreen Gearon at 818-349-0886. Bring your own lunch and join us in the lounge of the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

August Birthdays

- 2 Paul Coffman
Sabra Pittenger
- 4 Delores Butler
- 5 Lee Smith
- 12 Helen Robertson
- 13 Nancy Elliott
- 15 Donald Feener
Charlotte Girvan
Tim O'Connor
- 16 Dean Lottman
- 19 Liz Rogers
- 21 Sandra Dedinas
- 22 Karen Foreman
- 25 Elizabeth Cassel
- 27 Betty Barlow
- 29 Jennifer Alderman
- 30 Jamie Foreman

Anniversaries

- 7 Stan & Cathy Plucinik
- 23 Bill & Anna Bennett
- 27 Don & Evelyn Heim



- 1 Open
- 8 Helen Robertson *in honor of her great-granddaughter Sophie's 1st birthday.*
George Miller *in honor of Irene's birthday.*
- 15 Liz Rogers *in honor of daughter Janet's birthday.*
- 22 Bill and Anna Bennett *in honor of their wedding anniversary.*
- 29 Open



Take Us to Promised Land

The Inspirational Dancers presented a program during the worship service on May 23 entitled *Take us to the Promised Land*. The dancers received many positive comments about the program.

Irene Zelaya leads the group. For this program she was joined by dancers Brenda Jones, Julie Gilson, Flora Wilhelm and Sandra Dedinas. Michael DuBois portrayed Michael, Tom Roe was the narrator and Paul Cady was the featured vocalist. Pamela Blackstone was the accompanist and Lora O'Connor was wardrobe mistress.



Tom Roe, Lora O'Connor, Irene Zelaya, Brenda Jones, Julie Gilson, Michael DuBois, Flora Wilhelm, Pamela Blackstone, Sandra Dedinas, and Paul Cady



Making Music in the Gym

The San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus is seen here rehearsing for the program which they presented on Sunday, June 13 in the gym. The Director is Colleen Kennedy and Kathleen Moon is the accompanist.

The group is for students from third grade through high school. They rehearse on our campus and will be auditioning new singers in the fall. For information, visit their website at valleyyouthchorus.org.



Here are our room 5 graduates with Miss Gina and Miss Robin. They all sang their hearts out at our end-of-the-year program, where they received a Pre-K completion certificate. We will miss them and wish them the best of luck!

Education...Sunday School

Margaret Cates

From July 4 through September 12 the middle school and elementary classes will be meeting as a combined class each Sunday under the leadership of Michael Kern and Jun Kim of the Peace Church. There will be Bible-themed games and activities. Regular elementary and middle school classes will resume on September 19.

The Education Ministry would like to thank Michael Kern and Jun Kim for teaching the middle school students all year. We would also like to thank Karen Foreman, Jamie Foreman, Robin Foreman and Judith Austin for teaching the elementary students during the month of June.

Meals on Wheels

Beginning in July, the Meals on Wheels program operated by the Valley Interfaith Council will be using our kitchen to package food for distribution to their clients in the West Valley. Their food is professionally prepared and then packaged for delivery to individual clients. They were looking for a site in the West Valley since many of their volunteer drivers live out here and deliver to clients locally. In the past the drivers have had to go to Van Nuys to pick up the meals for delivery.

The food will be delivered to our kitchen daily at 9:00 am, packaged by 10:00 and then sent out for delivery.

From the Mailbox



Dear Church Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and kind thoughts directed to my family in recent months. I would also like to thank you for the beautiful shawl. This is the third shawl presented so graciously to my family by the church. The ladies who create these shawls do an amazing job, as each is more lovely than the last.

This spring has been a struggle for my family with first Dan in the hospital, and later Rachel in the hospital. Both are doing better now, although Dan has entered hospice care. I know that their improvement was at least partially due to prayers being answered. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Nancy Elliot

Facility Update

Darold Cates

What's Completed!

Johnny Ramirez has completed work on the sprinklers in the backyard at the parsonage. Thanks, Johnny.

The ceiling in the women's restroom in the sanctuary building is being repaired and painted by Glen Alourd and Johnny Ramirez. Thanks, guys.

A leaky faucet in the women's restroom has been fixed.

Tim O'Connor is addressing a number of concerns at the parsonage, such as toilet problems, repair and painting in the kitchen, air conditioner efficiency, repair of a burner on the electric stove, etc. These will be completed by the time you receive this *Courier*.

What's next?

We are continuing to research solar power for our church. We are hoping to have more information soon.

I am working on replacing some of the vertical blinds in the parlor.

I am getting estimates to put screen doors on the choir room

Tim O'Connor has volunteered to take over Jasper's duties on the upkeep of the rose garden, and Jasper is teaching him the ropes. Thank you, Mary Mackay, for volunteering to do some painting, when needed.

Any other volunteers? Contact me at 818-883-7883.

Reception of New Members

On June 13, 2010, we were delighted to welcome four new members into our church. Brief bios are included below, written by the members who are serving as Shepherds for the new folks.



Meet **Stacey and Glen Alourdas**. Stacey was born in Los Angeles while Glen came from New Jersey. They both enjoy amateur photography and bowling. Glen is also interested in stamp collecting and history. His goal is to be a writer someday. Stacey is an animal lover, gardener, and truly enjoys cooking. Although Stacey and Glen have been married for only 22 years, they have been best friends for 30 years. They consider their friendship and marriage their greatest accomplishment. Glen was raised as a Catholic but as an adult joined a Pentecostal Church. He later left that church and for many years did not attend any church. Stacey had no religious background. When Glen decided he wanted to go back to church, Stacey came only to support him. They came to check out FUMC and our church family made them feel so welcome they kept coming. Stacey got curious and started reading, asking questions, and taking classes. She began to feel in her heart that this was the time for her to make the move. Stacey was baptized on Sunday, June 13th and with Glen became a member of our church.

Liz Rogers, Shepherd

We welcome **Brenda Joyce Jones** into membership. Brenda is a native Californian. She is married and has three children; two sons and one daughter. Her

youngest son, Samuel, is attending confirmation classes and will be confirmed in our church June 27th. Brenda is a computer programmer currently looking for a position. She has already become active in our church, attending *Our Journey of Faith* classes and joining the Sacred Dance Group.

Irene Zelaya, Shepherd

Barbra Schmidt was born on October 18th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a baby she was baptized into the Methodist Church. She moved with her family to California in 1961 when her Dad was transferred for his job. She works at the Northridge Hospital Gift Shop. She likes to walk every morning, go to the movies and listen to music. Her favorite sports teams are the L.A. Lakers, The Green Bay Packers and the L.A. Dodgers.

Anita Parrinello, Shepherd



Brenda Jones, Stacey and Glen Alourdas, Barbra Schmidt and Pastor Willie Foreman seen after the reception of new members on June 13, 2010.

**Deadline for the
September Courier
is August 15.**

Since there is a little extra room in this issue of the *Courier*, I will share a bit more detailed report of the financial picture for the church.

Although the individual giving is less than was predicted from pledges and past history of unpledged giving, the increase in rental fees has more than compensated for that decrease, primarily due to the cell tower rent. We also received a \$1,500 payment from the Jubilee Fund, a repayment of some of our support during the Pacific Homes difficulties.

As you can see, we show a net income at the end of May of \$14,175.43. This is a bit misleading because there were five Sundays in May and many first of the month June payments were actually received in May.

The good cash flow position, however, has allowed us to pay (in June) our apportionments in full through May.

Report for the end of May 2010

	YTD	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Faith Commitment	75,978.64	80,295.00	-4,316.36
Building Use	47,759.87	40,904.00	6,855.87
Special Offerings	2,378.00	2,000.00	378.00
Fund Raisers	-	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,790.25	419.00	1,371.25
Total Income	127,906.76	124,618.00	3,288.76
Expense			
Ministerial Expenses	29,857.80	28,905.50	952.30
Employee Expenses	19,816.30	22,436.00	-2,619.70
Employer Payroll Tax Expense	2,501.35	2,675.00	-173.65
Church Facilities Expenses	38,952.99	38,936.70	16.29
Office Expenses	4,475.83	6,258.50	-1,782.67
Parsonage Expenses	3,456.89	5,566.50	-2,109.61
Program Expenses	2,748.78	2,795.00	-46.22
Financial Expenses	589.52	219.00	370.52
Auxiliary Program Expenses	36.35	75.00	-38.65
Consultant fees	406.25	-	406.25
Conference Apportionments	10,889.27	15,940.00	-5,050.73
Other Conference Askings	-	230.00	-230.00
Total Expense	113,731.33	124,037.20	-10,305.87
Net Income	14,175.43	580.80	13,594.63

Endowment funds

Ameritrade	48,521.07
B of A CD	<u>22,220.69</u>
Total	70,741.76

Update on East Wall Graphic

The men have received \$2,692.75 toward the East Wall Graphics (as of press time). Their goal for the project is \$5,500, so they are nearly half-way there. If you have yet to participate, just make your check payable to the church and write "East Wall Graphic" on the memo line.

Change of Addresses

Paul and Barbara Coffman:

17236 Village 17, Camarillo, CA 93012
818-489-2853

Joy and Dennis DuBois:

19108 Drycliff Street, Canyon Country, CA 91351

Wonderful Wednesdays



...Four of them, in fact.

Tim and Lora O'Connor will be offering the Wonderful Wednesday cookouts again this summer. Every Wednesday in August at 6:00 pm you are invited to come to the church lawn for a picnic supper and fellowship. The cost for the meal is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

The menu will be hot dogs and hamburgers (with all of the fixings), potato salad, lemonade and dessert.

Lora needs volunteers to help with set-up, serving and clean-up. Contact her at 818-887-9931 or by email at LFO49@sbcglobal.net.

See you on August 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Church: www.umcp.org
Preschool: www.funp.org



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